

thorized (directly or through arrangements under this subsection) to receive any eligible person at any port of entry or debarkation upon arrival from a foreign country and, to the extent he finds it necessary, to temporarily care for and treat at suitable facilities (including a hospital), and otherwise render assistance to, such person pending his transfer or hospitalization pursuant to other sections of this chapter. For the purpose of providing such care and treatment and assistance, the Secretary is authorized to enter into suitable arrangements with appropriate State or other public or nonprofit agencies. Such arrangements shall be made without regard to section 5 of title 41, and may provide for payment by the Secretary either in advance or by way of reimbursement.

**(b) Payment or reimbursement for care, treatment, or assistance**

The Secretary may, to the extent deemed appropriate, equitable, and practicable by him, (1) require any person receiving care and treatment or assistance pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to pay, in advance or by way of reimbursement, for the cost thereof or (2) obtain reimbursement for such cost from any State or political subdivision responsible for the cost of his subsequent hospitalization.

(Pub. L. 86-571, §2, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 308; Pub. L. 96-88, title V, §509(b), Oct. 17, 1979, 93 Stat. 695.)

CHANGE OF NAME

“Secretary of Health and Human Services” substituted in text for “Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare” pursuant to section 509(b) of Pub. L. 96-88 which is classified to section 3508(b) of Title 20, Education.

**§ 323. Transfer and release to State of residence or legal domicile, or to relative**

If, at the time of arrival in the United States, the residence or the legal domicile of an eligible person appearing to be in need of care and treatment in a mental hospital is known to be in a State, or whenever thereafter such a person's residence or legal domicile in a State is ascertained, the Secretary shall, if the person is then under his care (whether directly or pursuant to a contract or other arrangement under section 322 or 324 of this title), endeavor to arrange with the proper authorities of such State, or of a political subdivision thereof, for the assumption of responsibility for the care and treatment of such person by such authorities and shall, upon the making of such arrangement in writing, transfer and release such person to such authorities. In the event the State of the residence or legal domicile of an eligible person cannot be ascertained, or the Secretary is unable to arrange with the proper authorities of such State, or of a political subdivision thereof, for the assumption of responsibility for his care and treatment, the Secretary may, if he determines that the best interests of such person will be served thereby, transfer and release the eligible person to a relative who agrees in writing to assume responsibility for such person after having been fully informed as to his condition.

(Pub. L. 86-571, §3, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 308.)

**§ 324. Care and treatment of eligible persons until transfer and release**

**(a) Place of hospitalization**

Until the transfer and release of an eligible person pursuant to section 323 of this title, the Secretary is authorized to provide care and treatment for such person at any Federal hospital within or (pursuant to agreement) outside of the Department, or (under contract or other arrangements made without regard to section 5 of title 41) at any other public or private hospital in any State and, for such purposes, to transfer such person to any such hospital from a place of temporary care provided pursuant to section 322 of this title. In determining the place of such hospitalization, the Secretary shall give due weight to the best interests of the patient.

**(b) Ineligible persons**

The authority of the Secretary to provide hospitalization for any person under this section shall not apply to any person for whose medical care and treatment any agency of the United States is responsible.

(Pub. L. 86-571, §4, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 309; Pub. L. 98-621, §10(r), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3381.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-621 substituted “any” for “Saint Elizabeth Hospital, at any other” after “for such person” in first sentence.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-621 effective Oct. 1, 1987, see section 12(b) of Pub. L. 98-621 set out as an Effective Date note under section 225 of this title.

**§ 325. Examination of persons admitted**

**(a) Time and frequency of examination; discharge**

Any person admitted to any hospital pursuant to section 322 or section 324 of this title shall, as soon as practicable, but in no event more than five days after the day of such admission, be examined by qualified members of the medical staff of the hospital and, unless found to be in need of hospitalization by reason of mental illness, shall be discharged. Any person found upon such examination to be in need of such hospitalization shall thereafter, as frequently as practicable but not less often than every six months, be reexamined and shall, whenever it is determined that the conditions justifying such hospitalization no longer obtain, be discharged or, if found to be in the best interests of the patient, be conditionally released.

**(b) Notice to legal guardian, etc.**

Whenever any person is admitted to a hospital pursuant to this chapter, his legal guardian, spouse, or next of kin shall, if known, be immediately notified.

(Pub. L. 86-571, §5, July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 309.)

**§ 326. Release of patient**

**(a) Request; determination of right to retain; retention after request**

If a person who is a patient hospitalized under section 322 or 324 of this title, or his legal guard-